

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS STATE 182555

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SENV, EEC

SUBJECT: VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL

HAMMER

REF: STATE 172873

1. MISSION REQUESTED INFORM HAMMER OF FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS FOR GENERAL OUTLINE HIS VISIT, AND REPORT ANY PROBLEMS OR COUNTER-SUGGESTIONS HE VOLUNTEERS.

2. MONDAY, AUGUST 18 - MEET WITH VARIOUS CEQ OFFICIALS FOR GENERAL OVERVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS. ALL, OR AT LEAST A GOOD PART, OF THE DAY COULD PRODUCTIVELY BE SPENT IN THIS MANNER.

3. FRIDAY, AUGUST 22 - ALL DAY WOULD BE LEFT QUITE FLEXIBLE, BOTH TO ALLOW FOR SCHEDULING ANY ADDITIONAL MEETINGS WHICH DURING WEEK APPEAR DESIRABLE, AND TO PERMIT WRAP-UP SESSION AT CEQ, LENGTH OF WHICH WOULD DEPEND ON HAMMER'S NEEDS AND DESIRES AT THAT TIME.

4. REMAINDER OF WEEK WOULD BE DEVOTED TO (A) IN-DEPTH
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REVIEW OF TWO OR THREE GOOD "CASE STUDY" ENVIRONMENTAL

IMPACT ASSESSMENT CASES AND (B) MEETINGS WITH OFFICIALS INVOLVED WITH THE EIS PROCESS IN ADDITION TO THOSE ENCOUNTERED IN PURSUIT OF THESE "CASE STUDIES" (THIS WOULD INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE-HALF DAY AT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY).

5. IN AMPLIFICATION OF CASE STUDY IDEA, WE PROPOSE BELOW THREE WHICH WE BELIEVE WOULD GIVE HAMMER BROAD AND DEEP EXPOSURE TO MAJOR FACETS OF EIS PROCESS IN RELATION TO QUITE DIFFERENT SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. INTERVIEWS WOULD BE PLANNED WITH PERSONS INVOLVED IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE CASES, INCLUDING PRIVATE LOCAL INTEREST GROUPS, LAWYERS, CONSULTANTS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS. WE WILL TRY TO SEND SELECTED MATERIAL ON THESE CASES TO ARRIVE PRIOR TO HAMMER'S DEPARTURE FOR THE US.

A. I-66 HIGHWAY - A MULTI-FACETED CASE CONCERNING THE IMPACT OF A PROPOSED SEGMENT OF INTERSTATE HIGHWAY ON A METROPOLITAN AREA. THE EIS INCLUDE ANALYSIS OF MASS TRANSIT AND COMBINATION MASS TRANSIT/HIGHWAY ALTERNATIVES. THE CASE HAS INVOLVED VOCAL LOCAL INTEREST GROUPS, HIGH-LEVEL LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH ATTENTION, AND COURT DECISIONS. SINCE THE PROPOSED HIGHWAY SEGMENT WOULD GO THROUGH ONE OF WASHINGTON'S SUBURBS, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO GET INTO THE CASE IN DEPTH WITHOUT TRAVELING OUTSIDE OF THE WASHINGTON AREA.

B. BALTIMORE HARBOR - THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE HARBOR ADDRESSES THE IMPACTS UPON THE ENVIRONMENT OF CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF THE FOURTH LARGEST PORT IN THE US. THIS HARBOR HAS MAJOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS UPON THE EASTERN PART OF THE US. THE DISPOSAL OF DREDGED MATERIAL IS A MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION.

C. CALVERT CLIFFS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - A CASE IN MARYLAND WHICH SPARKED MAJOR CONCERN ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCEDURES FOR NUCLEAR FACILITIES. IT WAS THE SUBJECT OF A LAND-MARK DECISION IN 1971 BY A FEDERAL COURT OF APPEALS THAT RULED THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

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STATEMENT PROCEDURES OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION WERE UNACCEPTABLE. SUCH PROCEDURES WERE THEN CHANGED, A NEW IMPACT STATEMENT WAS PREPARED AND THE PLANT WAS RECENTLY LICENSED FOR OPERATION.

6. AS NOTED, WE BELIEVE PROGRAM BUILT AROUND THESE CASES WOULD GIVE GENEROUS AND BROAD EXPOSURE TO THE SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS IN THE

US, AND WOULD PROVIDE A FULL SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK
HAMMER WILL BE IN WASHINGTON. PLEASE ADVISE HAMMER'S
REACTION TO THE PRECEDING, ALONG WITH ANY ADDITIONS OR
SUGGESTIONS HE MIGHT PUT FORWARD. INGERSOLL

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